

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO, YO

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY WRAPUP ON TITO VISIT TO ROMANIA

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT TITO'S FOUR-DAY VISIT TO ROMANIA AT LEAST GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF CONFIRMING THE GENERALLY GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE DEVOTED TWO PARAGRAPHS TO THE "NATIONALITIES PROBLEM" IN BOTH COUNTRIES, EMPHASIZING THAT EACH SIDE MUST RESOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO SUPPORTED THE PLO AS THE "ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE", AND USED STRONGER TERMS ON SUCH ISSUES AS VIET-NAM AND CHILE THAN THE ROMANIANS NORMALLY EMPLOY. THE PRELIMINARY IMPRESSION OF THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS THAT WHILE BOTH SIDES MADE AN EFFORT
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TO DEMONSTRATE THE GOOD STATE OF THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE

MEETINGS DID NOT IN FACT RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON THE MORE PRACTICAL MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LONG-DELAYED OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. TITO TO ROMANIA WAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE AND HANDLED IN A WAY DESIGNED TO EMPHASIZE THE GOOD RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, WHATEVER SYMBOLIC OR MORE GENERAL VALUE THE VISIT MAY HAVE HAD, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS SHORT ON EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS IN SUCH PRACTICAL AREAS OF INTEREST TO ROMANIA AS FURTHER EXPLOITATION OF THE DANUBE FOR HYDROELECTRIC PURPOSES. ONLY ONE AGREEMENT, A LONG-TERM ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACCORD, WAS REACHED, AND EVEN THAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN VERY GENERAL IN NATURE.

3. TWO CURIOUS PARAGRAPHS IN THE COMMUNIQUE DISCUSS THE "NATIONALITIES PROBLEM", A SUBJECT WE DO NOT RECALL HAVING SEEN IN PREVIOUS ROMANIAN COMMUNIQUE. THE MAIN POINT MADE IS THAT EACH COUNTRY HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESOLVING NATIONAL MINORITY QUESTIONS WITHIN ITS OWN BORDERS AND WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. IN THE ABSENCE OF SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA ON NATIONAL MINORITIES, ONE CAN ASSUME THAT THESE TWO PARAGRAPHS IN FACT REFER TO THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION AND ROMANIA'S MAGYAR MINORITY.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL PORTIONS OF THE COMMUNIQUE COVER A BROAD RANGE OF QUESTIONS IN FAIRLY STANDARD TERMS BUT WITH SOME INTERESTING NUANCES. BOTH SIDES, FOR EXAMPLE, SUPPORT THE PLO AS THE "ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE", AND STRESS THE NEED FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION, ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, IN THE SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. ISRAELI RAIDS ON THE "CIVILIAN POPULATION" IN LEBANON ARE MENTIONED, WHILE THERE IS SILENCE ON THE CAUSE OF THOSE ATTACKS. THE TWO PRESIDENTS PRAISE THE POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT AS "AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND HEGEMONISM". MOVEMENT TO THE THIRD PHASE OF CSCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IS URGED, AS IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "PERMANENT ORGANISM" AS FOLLOW-ON FOR THE CONFERENCE. FINALLY, "TERROR" IN CHILE AND THE "BRUTAL" VIOLATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY THE GVN, "WITH THE SUPPORT AND HELP OF IMPERIALIST FORCES" ARE CASTIGATED. THE ROMANIAN SIDE HAS GONE SOMEWHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEYOND ITS NORMAL POSITION ON SEVERAL OF THE PRECEDING SUBJECTS, PRESUMABLY AT YUGOSLAV URGING.

5. AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE TITO VISIT MUST AWAIT TALKS WITH ROMANIAN AND YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS WHO HAVE MORE DETAILS ON THE MEETINGS. NEVERTHELESS, THE INITIAL IMPRESSION WITHIN THE BUCHAREST DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND AMONG FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED IS THAT WHILE THE VISIT HAD A USEFUL

SYMBOLIC VALUE, THE ROMANIANS AT LEAST WERE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY DID NOT GET MORE CONCRETE COMMITMENTS FROM THEIR GUESTS ON SUCH MATTERS AS THE DANUBE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS AND THE LONG-TERM COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

BARNES

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